

In the specification:

Beginning at page 1, line 2, insert the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/594,670, filed on February 2, 1996, which claims the benefit of foreign priority applications filed in Japan, Serial No. 07-037705, filed February 2, 1995 and Serial No. 07-068670, filed March 2, 1995, all of which are incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 28 as follows:

Fig. 2 shows an example of an optical path inside the optics 4. A laser beam input to the optics 4 is passed through a cylindrical concave lens A, a cylindrical convex lens B, and horizontal and vertical flyeye lenses C and D, further passed through cylindrical convex lenses E and F, reflected by a mirror G (which corresponds to the mirror 9 in Fig. 1), focused by a cylindrical lens G H, and finally applied to the sample 11. By moving the lens H vertically with respect to the illumination surface, the laser beam profile on the illumination surface can be changed from a profile close to a rectangular one to a normal-distribution type profile. Since the full-reflection mirror G in Fig. 2 corresponds to the full-reflection mirror 9 in Fig. 1, actually the lens H is disposed between the full-reflection mirror 9 and the sample 11.